

News Release from
The Honorable Sandra Doorley
Monroe County District Attorney

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Owner of Lyell Avenue Car Dealership Pleads Guilty to Cheating on Taxes

Rochester, NY- Today, Monroe County District Attorney Sandra Doorley announced that Peter Davidson, 54, the owner of the Advanced Auto car dealership located at 139 Lyell Avenue in Rochester, pled guilty to Grand Larceny in the Second Degree for stealing in excess of \$100,000 in sales tax from the State of New York. From December 2001 through February 2009, Davidson failed to file quarterly sales tax returns with New York State. However, retail Certificates of Sale submitted to the Department of Motor Vehicles for the same period were audited and caused authorities to further scrutinize Advanced Auto's sales records. The subsequent investigation revealed that Davidson left unreported over \$1.5 million in sales revenue, charging his customers \$126,053.70 in sales tax on behalf of the State, then kept the money for his own use.

Davidson was released on his own recognizance and is scheduled to be sentenced on May 20, when he will receive 6 months in Monroe County Jail and 5 years probation in addition to being required to pay restitution to New York State for the amount stolen. As a condition of his plea agreement, Davidson waived his right to appeal.

"Tax cheats like Peter Davidson increase the burden on other members of our community, short-change our state and local governments, and create unfair advantages over honest business people who pay their taxes and play by the rules," said Monroe County District Attorney Sandra Doorley. "I want to thank Mark Monaghan of our Economic Crimes Bureau for his outstanding work in this case and for fighting to ensure that the people of Monroe County are not left footing the bill for one person's dishonesty."

Davidson's conviction is the latest recovery of funds resulting from the Monroe County District Attorneys Office's *Crimes Against Revenue Program* (CARP). Implemented in 2005, the CARP program is a grant-funded initiative by the NYS Division of Criminal Justice Services that focuses the efforts of prosecutors on the theft of public funds, particularly theft of tax revenue. To date, the program has recovered over \$2.8 million for Monroe County residents.

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